



LLANGOLLEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the
YEAR 1960.



LLANGOLLEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

T. KENRICK HUGHES, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

H. G. FAWCETT, C.S.I.B.

HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE.

CHAIRMAN -- MR. D. LL. CUFFIN.

I have the honour to present my 10th Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Llangollen Urban District for the year ended 31st December, 1960, together with the information supplied by the Public Health Inspector.

The Town has now become a famous centre of international culture. The International Eisteddfod becomes more popular every year and does more to promote international harmony than all the Summit Conferences of politicians put together. The Vale of Llangollen is an ideal setting for this Eisteddfod but the huge attendances throw a considerable strain on the resources of a small town. Now that the sewerage scheme is near completion and the water supply is to be augmented it will be possible to cope with even larger numbers without difficulty.

During the year the age limit for Polio Vaccination was raised from 25 to 40 years and the response has been very good.

The Caravan Sites and control of development bill came before Parliament during the year. It will make the control of caravans much easier than at present. The Bill is a carefully worked out plan to do justice to Caravans and to get them on to controlled and registered sites where they will have proper amenities and so help to do away with the caravan slum.

There were no serious epidemics of notifiable infectious disease during the year apart from influenza which is not notifiable.

The housing programme has recommenced after being many years in abeyance and the new council houses will be completed early in 1961. We can now look forward to dealing with our slum clearance problems and also to reducing the numbers on our waiting list for houses. It will also be easier to meet the housing requirements of new industries in the Town.

I have received most valuable help from Mr. Fawcett the Public Health Inspector and am most grateful to him for his assistance.

I am also indebted to Mr. Ellis Roberts, the Clerk of the Council and his staff for their help in compiling this Report.

Finally I must express my appreciation to the Chairman and Members of the Health & Housing Committee for their kindness and consideration throughout the year.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of the District in acres	3,107
Registrar General's estimated population	...		3,100
Number of inhabited houses	1,095
Rateable Value of District as at 1st October, 1960	...		£32,169
Sum represented by product of a Penny Rate for the Year ended 31st March, 1961. £139. 1. 11.98d.			

Population.

The population of the town was estimated to be 3,100 for 1960 as compared to 3,110 in 1959, so that it has shown hardly any change.

2. VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

There was a total of 45 live births during the year as compared to 45 in 1959 and 41 in 1958. These figures show that the births have been well maintained during the past 3 years. They include 26 boys and 19 girls and were all legitimate births.

(Comparability factor 1.02)

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	26	19	45
Illegitimate	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
	<u>26</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>45</u>

BIRTH RATE.

The Birth Rate was 14.51 as compared to 14.47 in 1959.
The corrected Birth Rate for comparison with England and Wales was 14.80.

The Birth Rate for England and Wales was 17.1 so our Birth Rate is now well below that for England & Wales whereas 10 years ago our Birth rate used to be higher than that for England & Wales. Whether this decline in the Birth Rate is due to a higher proportion of older people in the population may be revealed in the census figures of 1961.

DEATHS.

There was a total of 35 deaths as compared to 40 in 1959 and 42 in 1958.

These figures show a gradual fall in the number of deaths during the last 3 years. The 35 deaths included 16 men and 19 women.

DEATH RATE.

The Death Rate per 1,000 of the population was 11.29 as compared to 12.86 in 1959.

The adjusted Death Rate for comparison with England & Wales was 9.82.

That for England & Wales was 11.5.

These figures show that our death rate is well below that of England & Wales.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculosis - Respiratory.	1	-	1
Tuberculosis - Other.	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm - breast.	-	1	1
Other malignant neoplasms & lymphatic neoplasms	3	2	5
Malignant neoplasm - uterus	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	4	6	10
Coronary disease - angina	2	1	3
Hypertension - with heart disease -	-	2	2
Other heart disease	1	1	2
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Bronchitis	-	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	-	1
All other accidents	-	2	2
TOTALS	16	19	35

The chief causes of death remain the same and are diseases of the heart and circulation with 17 and cancer with 7 deaths.

There were no deaths from lung cancer this year as compared to 2 men who died of it in 1959. This would tend to show that smoking is not causing an increase of lung cancer in Llangollen.

The number dying of Coronary thrombosis was 3 as compared to 5 in 1959. This disease is increasing, in most parts of the Country.

The number dying from strokes was 10 and was the same last year. These usually occur in the older age groups.

INFANT DEATHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	2 (Legitimate)	-	2
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks	1	-	1
Deaths of Infants under 1 week	1	-	1

There were 2 infant deaths during the year whereas there were no infant deaths in 1959. Both these babies were boys and died below the age of 4 weeks.

INFANT DEATH RATE.

The death rate per 1,000 live births was 44.44 as compared to "Nil" in 1959.

That for England & Wales was 21.7 so that our District compares unfavourably with England & Wales this year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

All infectious diseases now notifiable by statute or under regulations should be notified to the District Medical Officer of Health as soon as diagnosed, so that measures can be taken to trace the source of infection and to prevent its spread. This is of vital importance in outbreaks of food poisoning.

It is unfortunately true that these regulations are more honoured in the breach than in the observance. Only 5 cases of infectious disease were notified during the year while none were notified in 1959.

The cases notified are listed below.

1 meningococcal infection
1 poliomyelitis
1 tuberculosis
2 measles

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

The County Council is responsible for making provision for this service. Most children are treated at the schools or clinics, while evening sessions are held at the clinic for the convenience of adults. Any person can also be treated by his General Practitioner if he so desires.

Vaccination against Small Pox.

This is the oldest method of protection against disease and was discovered by Dr. Jenner in the last century when Small Pox was a very dangerous and common infection. Vaccination was made compulsory and was so effective that Small Pox has been eliminated from this country. However it was made non-compulsory 15 years ago and subsequently the figures for vaccination dropped. There is always the danger that Small Pox may be brought to this country by infected persons from foreign countries coming here by sea or air transport. It is therefore wise not to neglect vaccination.

Vaccination is still compulsory for persons who are travelling to foreign countries where Small Pox is prevalent.

The number vaccinated during 1960 is shown below.

	<u>Age.</u>	<u>Number.</u>
Primary Vaccinations	0 - 1	20
	1 - 4	2
	Over 15	1
		<u>23</u>
Revaccinations	5 - 14	1
	Over 15	1
		<u>2</u>

Immunisation against Diphtheria & Whooping Cough.

This form of protection has been carried out for about 25 years and prior to this, epidemics of Diphtheria were frequent and deadly and it could be considered the most dangerous infectious disease among children. Since immunisation was started the picture has completely changed, for Diphtheria has been practically wiped out. No cases have occurred in Llangollen during the past 10 years, but outbreaks have occurred quite recently in some towns so that it is very important to get all our children protected. A triple vaccine has been introduced recently which protects against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus and is now in general use.

Table of Immunisation.

Diphtheria & Whooping Cough.		Triple Antigen.		Booster doses.	
<u>Years</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Number.</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Number.</u>
0 - 1	- 17	0 - 1	- 5	0 - 4	- 4
1 - 4	- 3	1 - 4	- 1	5 - 9	151
				10 - 14	45
	<u>20</u>		<u>6</u>		<u>200</u>

Polio Vaccination.

During the year the age limit for Polio Vaccination was raised from 25 years to 40 years and evening sessions were arranged at the clinic for the convenience of the adults. They have been well attended in Llangollen.

Polio vaccination is a comparatively new venture and starting with a few mishaps in other countries has now become a safe means of protection against this death and crippling disease. There are already signs that the incidence of Polio is lessening throughout the country but the infection is far from being conquered as yet. However, the public realise this and respond well for vaccination against this disease.

The figures are shown in the Table.

Polio Vaccination Figures.

<u>Primary.</u>		<u>Booster Dose.</u>	
<u>Age</u>		<u>Age</u>	
0 - 1	- 2	0 - 5	- 61
1 - 4	- 38	5 - 15	- 55
5 - 15	- 3	15 - 25	- 127
15 - 25	- 5	25 - 40	- 63
25 - 40	- 68		

B. C. G. Vaccination and Mass Radiography.

The County Council arranged to do B.C.G. Vaccination of all the children attending the Grammar School and in conjunction with this arranged for the Mass Radiography nit to visit Llangollen from November 21st for 2 weeks to X Ray the children and any of the General Public who so desire.

The grand total of attendance was 611. The number of persons found to have abnormalities was 34 of whom details are given on the attached sheet, (Table A).

Table B.

Analysis of other abnormalities of the chest not requiring further observation during the Mass Radiographic Survey carried out at Llangollen amongst the General Population in November and December, 1960.

No.	Classification of Abnormality.	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
A.	<u>Tuberculous Abnormalities.</u>			
	Healed Post-Primary Tuberculosis	10	5	15
B.	<u>Non-Tuberculous Abnormalities.</u>			
	Abnormality of the bony thorax & soft tissues	1	1	2
	Pneumoconiosis: without P.M.F. Stage 1	1	-	1
	Pleural thickening or calcification	6	1	7
	TOTALS:	18	7	25

WELSH REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD - MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE.

DETAILS OF MASS RADIOGRAPHIC SURVEY CARRIED OUT AT
LLANGOLLEEN AMONGST THE GENERAL POPULATION IN NOVEMBER &
DECEMBER, 1960

ANALYSIS IN AGE GROUPS.

	GRAND TOTAL	Under 15		15-24		25-34		35-44		45-59		60 & over		TOTALS.	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Total Number examined	611	-	-	39	73	39	65	50	79	68	97	35	66	231	380
Number found to be abnormal (a & b)	34 or 5.56%	-	-	2	-	3	1	10	1	8	5	1	3	24	10
Classification of abnormal cases :															
(a) Requiring further observation	9 or 1.47%	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	1	1	2	1	-	6	3
(b) Other abnormalities of the chest. %	25 or 4.09%	-	-	1	-	3	1	7	-	7	3	-	3	18	7

* Details of other abnormalities of the chest analysed in Table B.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT :

Sanitary Inspections:

The following is a statement of the number and nature of inspection made during the year, under the various Acts, Orders and Byelaws within the area : -

Housing matters - first visit	32
second visit	54
Dangerous structures	3
Nuisances - first visit	28
second visit	39
Water Supply - Works	52
Defective services & Wastages.	33
Disinfestations and disinfection.	13
Drains, Cesspools and privies,	130
Food premises.	37
Slaughterhouses.	-
Milk and Dairies.	-
Factories	16
Amusement houses.	3
Schools.	4
Scavenging and disposal.	52
New buildings and alterations.	64
Markets.	52
Miscellaneous.	43
	<hr/>
	655
	<hr/>

Summary of Notices served:

	<u>Informal.</u>	<u>Formal.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>
Dwellinghouses -			
structural defects	5	-	5
Nuisances.	17	-	14
Water Supply.	6	-	6
Drainage.	9	-	9

WATER SUPPLY.

Number of dwelling houses supplied direct to house by mains.	988
Population of dwelling houses supplied direct to house by mains	2,802
Number of dwellinghouses supplies by means of stand pipes	35
Population of dwellinghouses supplied by means of stand pipes.	105
Number of dwellinghouses supplied from private supplies	72
Population of dwellinghouses supplied from private supplies	200

The Water Undertaking, which is owned by the Council, relies on two sources of supply - the Vivod stream, which has a gathering ground of 1,100 acres of woodland and mixed farming, is generally adequate to supply the needs of the undertaking, and in times of prolonged periods of dry weather and peak demand, a supply is drawn from the River Dee.

The water from both sources of supply is given thorough treatment at the works. After passing through the plant which consists of sedimentation, rapid sand filtration and chlorination the water is stored in a covered reservoir to prevent further contamination before passing into supply.

At the end of the year work was progressing satisfactorily on a contract for providing two electrically operated pumps at the Horseshoe Falls pumping station to replace the diesel

engined pump; to provide an additional sedimentation tank; one extra rapid sand filter and improved type chlorination, ammonia, alum and lime dosing equipment at the works.

When this work of overhauling and modernising the water treatment plant is complete the works will be capable of supplying adequately the Town and the Parish of Llantysilio in Wrexham Rural District.

The following Reports indicate that the treatment of the water is satisfactory :

Bacteriological tests of treated water:

Number of samples sent to Public Health Laboratory	
Mains Supply ...	7
Private Supplies..	3
Number returned "Highly satisfactory":	
Mains Supply ...	7
Private supplies..	3

Chemical Analyses of Raw Water:

(A) VIVOD STREAM (In parts per million of water)

Total solid matter in solution.	140.00
Nitrogen in Nitrates.	1.25
Chlorine in Chlorides.	14.00
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 80° F.	0.44
Free and Saline Ammonia.	Nil.
Albuminoid Ammonia.	0.04
Lead, Copper and Zinc.	Nil.
Microscopical examination of Sediment.	Very slight trace.
Temporary hardness.	80.0
Permanent hardness	22.0
pH Value.	7.4

The above Chemical Analysis is "Satisfactory".

(B) RIVER DEE WATER (In parts per million of water)

Total solid matter in solution.	60.0
Nitrogen in Nitrates.	0.38
Chlorine in Chlorides.	13.0
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate, in 4 hours at 80°F.	3.12
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.06
Albuminoid Ammonia.	Nil
Lead, Copper, Zinc.	Nil
Microscopical examination of sediment:	Trace.
Temporary hardness.	20.0
Permanent hardness.	3.0
pH Value.	6.7

The above Chemical analysis is "Satisfactory".

The following Table indicates the amount of and distribution of water produced by the Undertaking during the Year : -

Nature of Consumption.	Total consumption in Million gallons for the twelve months ending 31st December, 1960.
DOMESTIC	46 estimated
TRADE	
(including agriculture)	15 metered
	18 estimated
OTHERS	2 metered - bulk supply to Wrexham R.D.C.
	Llantysilio Parish.
TOTAL	81.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

At the end of the year the contract for the Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme which was commenced in May 1959 was 60% complete and progress continued to be satisfactory.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Collection of refuse in the district is carried out by direct labour and disposal is by means of controlled tipping.

HOUSING.

Five houses were completed during the year by private enterprise.

The twenty houses being erected by the Council at Maes Pengwern were nearing completion.

Tenders were invited for the erection of ten aged persons bungalows to be erected in the centre of the existing Pengwern Estate.

RODENT CONTROL.

Two comprehensive sewer treatments were carried out during the year by the Council's own operator. Both treatments appeared satisfactory. A number of minor infestations of rats and mice were also dealt with.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Under the provisions of the Caravan sites and Control of Development Act 1960, the Council will have greater control of caravan sites. At the end of the year the Council were considering the issue of two licences, one in respect of six caravans on one farm and one on another.

FOOD INSPECTIONS.

Thirty seven visits of inspection were made during the year to premises where food is prepared.

The general standard of hygiene in food premises in the Town is good. Food handlers are constantly being made aware of the importance of taking all possible steps to avoid food contamination.

The following table gives details of the foodstuffs which have been condemned during the year :

Meat	1 lb.
Tinned fruit	37 lbs
Tinned Milk	1 tin
Tinned fish	3 lbs
Tinned Meat	1 lb
Ham	14 lbs
Vegetables	10 lbs

ICE CREAM.

Twenty eight premises are registered for the sale of pre-packed ice cream.

Periodic visits are made to ensure that the premises and apparatus conform to the provisions of the Food and Drugs Acts.

MARKETS.

Weekly Auction sales have been held throughout the year. In September the Annual Sheep Sales were held.

The Welsh Half-Bred Sheepbreeders Association Annual Sale had to be held outside the Town again this year, due to the large number of entries this sale attracted.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

There is only one licenses Retail Dairy in the Town.

Three distributors hold supplementary licences to retail milk and two grocery shops are licensed to retail sterilised milk.

FACTORIES.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health :

Premises	Number on Register	NUMBER OF		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities.	2	4	Nil	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	22	44	Nil	Nil
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	2	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	26.	50.	Nil.	Nil.

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector.
Want of cleanliness	Nil	--	--
Overcrowding.	Nil	--	--
Unreasonable Temperature.	Nil	--	--
Inadequate ventilation.	Nil.	--	--

Yours obediently,

(SIGNED) T. K. HUGHES.

Medical Officer of
Health.

SEPTEMBER, 1961.

